



American Le Mans Series

**BMW Team RLL returns to successful territory at Road America.**

Munich, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012. BMW Team RLL heads to the Road America Road Race Showcase (US) for the seventh round the 2012 American Le Mans Series ready to extend its record of excellent finishes at the longest road course in North America.

Road America's fast 4.048-mile circuit has been the stage for many BMW Team RLL triumphs. Bill Auberlen (US) and Joey Hand (US) took the chequered flag in 2009 for the team's very first victory. Tommy Milner (US) and Dirk Müller (DE) finished second to make it the team's first one-two finish as well. The next year Hand and Müller, now teamed up together, took the win again. Last year the team was denied the victory, but finished with both cars on the podium in second and third.

With five podium finishes in the first six races of the season, including a win at the 12 Hours of Sebring, BMW stands second in the GT class manufacturer points and BMW Team RLL is second in the team points. Hand and Müller are second in the driver points. Team-mates Auberlen and Jörg Müller (DE) are sixth.

This year marks the first time BMW Team RLL will race without Hand because of a conflict with his DTM programme. Jonathan Summerton (US), who co-drove with Hand and Müller to the 12 Hours of Sebring victory this year, will substitute for Hand.

**Bobby Rahal (Team Principal):**

"Elkhart Lake is, without a doubt, the best circuit in North America and one of the top five in the world. It's a great circuit with long straights, fast corners, tight corners, heavy braking – it's a very demanding circuit for the driver and car. Dunlop has done a great job for us over the course of our relationship and we're going to really need to rely on its help at Road America. We have got our cars to handle better so hopefully again that can help negate the disadvantage we have in straight line speed to Ferrari, Corvette and Porsche. Generally we are pretty good under braking at Elkhart Lake, but the big thing is the amount of speed you can carry through the corners and that comes down to handling and aerodynamics."

**Dirk Müller (BMW M3 GT – No. 56):**

"The second half of the season has started and we are in the hunt for the championship. Road America is a very special place for me and BMW Team RLL has had a lot of success there."

**Jonathan Summerton (BMW M3 GT – No. 56):**

"Road America is my favourite track in North America. I raced from ninth to first there in the 2008 Atlantic Championship. I'm very excited to be back in the BMW M3 GT again. I learned a lot at Sebring about GT racing and I hope I can continue to help BMW win the championship again this season."



**Jörg Müller (BMW M3 GT – No. 55):**

"I am taking my first visit to Road America very seriously. I have been hearing stories from my team-mates as well as other drivers that the hilly parts and different types of corners are difficult to learn. They also say the track is wonderful to drive. It will be hard work to perform well, and I look forward to the whole thing."

**Bill Auberlen (BMW M3 GT – No. 55):**

"Road America is one of my favourite tracks in North America. It's fast and fun and it brings out the best in the best drivers and it brings out the best in the best cars. This year we are down on top speed to the competition, but you should never count us out – especially at Road America."

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